

REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL – 500 CASTRO STREET
5:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Siegel.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members: Margaret Abe-Koga, Ronit Bryant and Chair Jac Siegel.

City Staff Present: Cathy Lazarus, Public Works Director; Joan Jenkins, Transportation and Policy Manager; and Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A reminder that the single-use bag item is going to Council tomorrow, January 27. Also, the homeowners association is interested in a community garden and wants to explore with the City how to go about it and what the restrictions are.

4. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Motion—M/S Abe-Koga/Bryant—Carried 3-0—Approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **FINALIZE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN AND FEBRUARY 17, 2009 STUDY SESSION REPORT**

The Public Works Director stated staff completed changes to the Action Plan recommended by the Committee and a draft memo of the February 17 Study Session is included.

The total dollar amounts are fairly substantial, particularly the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) reserves, which are discretionary funds. There may be trade-offs the Committee will want to make. The current balance is low, so there is some concern about funding.

Staff briefly described several items:

- City staff submitted a \$150,000 grant application for the Pedestrian Master Plan.
- The bicycle boulevard proposal will construct one boulevard at a time at about \$50,000 each.
- Funding for training in environmental sustainability is for the Community Development Department and recertification for civil engineers.

Committee Comments

In response to a question about new legislation, the Public Works Director replied AB 2466 allows excess power generated by "clean" methods (solar, wind) to go back into the grid and to offset utility costs at other locations and will be described at the February 17 Study Session.

Public Input

Bruce England commented that the Environmental Sustainability Task Force did a lot of work on the Pedestrian Master Plan and pulled information from the walkability workshop and the General Plan visioning process.

Aileen LaBouff explained the Task Force is starting to organize the green citizens group and asked the Committee to consider allocating some of the remaining Task Force funds to the new group.

Bruce Karney (former chair of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force) said he had hoped to leverage *private* investment in the Action Plan for items that eliminate greenhouse gases. There were many Task Force recommendations where City money could be used to match or leverage private individual and company funds.

Many of the Action Plan items are worthy efforts, but they are not high, rapid impact greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction activities. Matching PGE's energy-efficiency rebate program or participating in Climate Smart are Task Force recommendations.

Julie Lovins stated that funding is needed to do outreach.

Cliff Chambers asked about the stimulus package.

Another Task Force member said bicycle and pedestrian plans should also be at top of list since they will get people out of their cars.

Committee Discussion

A member recommended the Committee prioritize these items by:

- Cost effectiveness—how much GHG reduction is achieved for the cost?
- Project readiness—the length of time to initiate a project.

In response to a question, the Public Works Director explained that a feasibility study on AB 2466 would require an environmental review, including a financial analysis. An AB 2466 project is not necessarily constrained to solar; it could be wind or a combination of renewables.

Committee member Bryant stated the City should focus on the Library to start "greening" City buildings. She also observed that the "benefits" need more emphasis in the report, and it is unclear whether all of the actions are recommended. The GHG reduction goals also should be included.

The Public Works Director replied that the Action Plan is your road map and will change as time passes.

Committee member Bryant asked that the two documents presented to the Committee be combined for the first year. By next year, we will have some more ideas.

5.2 SINGLE-USE, CARRY-OUT BAG ORDINANCE

Chairperson Siegel stated the item will also be discussed at Council tomorrow, January 27, 2009.

Committee member Abe-Koga reported the item includes a resolution for all Santa Clara County cities and the County to enter into a regional effort to charge for single-use, carry-out plastic and paper bags. However, the City of Los Altos voted not to participate.

Chairperson Siegel predicted Council would want to know the benefits of participating and said the staff report is very good.

Committee member Bryant thought that if all cities and the County agree, then an ordinance makes sense. If we are not unified, it will not work. It is a first step, a way to change our habits.

Public Comment

A member of the Task Force asked that the City be progressive on this issue. People will complain at first, but the complaints go away. We must do something and Mountain View should be first.

6. **COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND REPORTS—None.**
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

JJ/9/PWK
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